Spent Nuclear Fuel Project

Expectation:

Protect the Columbia River by safely moving more than 2,100 metric tons of deteriorating spent nuclear fuel from the aging K Basins to safe, dry, interim storage in the center of Hanford.

K Basins Update:

- **A Record of Decision was signed by DOE, Washington State and the Environmental Protection Agency bringing K Basins cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation & Liability Act.**

- **Two key components for removal of the spent fuel canisters next year – the fuel retrieval and water treatment systems – are now in place.**

- **We're implementing a phased approach to accelerate testing of the equipment, increase worker proficiency prior to fuel removal, and enhance our ability to meet a tight timetable. Cold testing will begin this December; hot testing will start in March, well ahead of the baseline November 2000 date.**

Workers install the "Konan Arm," a robotic device built and tested at Hanford specifically for the K Basins fuel retrieval system. Installation of the fuel retrieval and water treatment systems advances cleanup progress by allowing operational tests of these systems to go forward later this year, 11 months earlier than planned.

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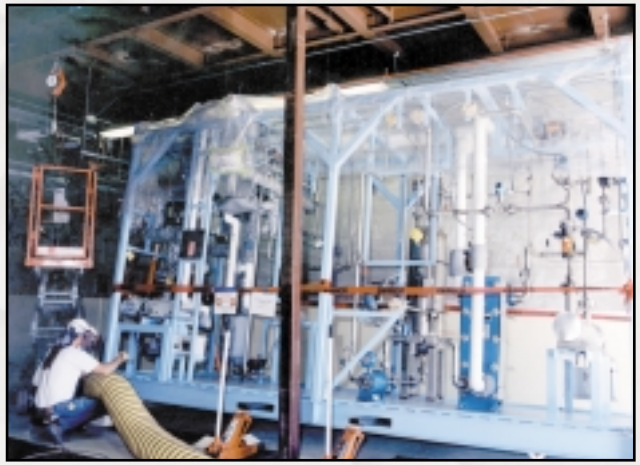
Supporting Facilities Update:

- Construction of the Cold Vacuum Drying facility is complete, along with installation of process skids in the first two bays and the water conditioning system.
- Nearly all of the required equipment has been placed in the completed Canister Storage Building.



The first process skid is installed in the Cold Vacuum Drying facility.

Multi-Canister Overpack (MCO) Update:

- A $20.6 million contract was awarded to a New Jersey firm to fabricate 400 MCOs to stringent "N-Stamp" standards of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.
- It's a major step in the Project's path forward and the largest current competitive fabrication contract in the US nuclear industry.
- The stainless-steel 14-foot-long MCOs will hold baskets of cleaned fuel assemblies from the K Basins, be placed in water-filled casks, sealed and cold vacuum dried for safe, dry, interim storage in the Canister Storage Building.